



Numismatists of Wisconsin

# N.O.W. News

Vol. 49 No. 3

Fall 2011



**Set Your Sites on the Fall Coin Shows**

### Numismatists of Wisconsin

is incorporated in the state of Wisconsin as a non-stock nonprofit tax exempt corporation.

Contributions are tax deductible

The objective of Numismatists of Wisconsin is to encourage and promote interest in numismatics, to cultivate friendly relations between Wisconsin coin collectors and Wisconsin coin clubs, and to encourage and assist new numismatic hobbyists. All resources of the organization shall be used to further these objectives. Dues are \$10 per year and entitles participants to NOW News, this quarterly publication. Among the services offered are coin authentication, a Speaker's Bureau, show calendar coordination and guidelines to assist coin clubs hosting the annual NOW convention.

Numismatists of Wisconsin holds Life Memberships in the American Numismatic Association and Central States Numismatic Society.

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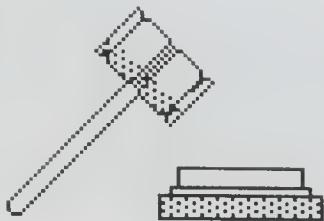
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### NOW News Deadlines

February 1, May 1, August 1 and November 1

website [www.numismatistsofwisconsin.org](http://www.numismatistsofwisconsin.org)



## President's Message

by Thad Streeter

Hello Numismatists of Wisconsin:

This is your president checking in and I hope that all is going well in your collecting arena. By following the news, international, national and hobby, the certainty is that there has been enough going on to keep everyone at the edge of their seats.

My main concern at this time is the price of gold and silver. So, what's the problem... things are up. Even with the adjustment to the silver markets things look good. So what's the problem? That's the problem!

As numismatists we know that the spot price of precious metals is going to have a bearing on the value of coins. High value collectables are not affected by the price of the day. Everything else is. When melt value exceeds numismatic value, the bandwagon gets pretty darn big. When the dust settles (and it will), what will things look like? How will that affect collecting? Will there be anything left? Will the hobby suffer a setback from the party? As of this writing the spot price of silver is \$37.96 and gold just topped \$1,850 on August 19<sup>th</sup>.

Here is my concern -- are we collectors, investors, speculators or something else? When investment products are being sold (life insurance, annuities, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, etc.) the potential investor is not only subject to the positive aspects of the investment, but also to any non-guaranteed features and the possibility of future loss of part or all of a given investment to the point of signing acknowledgments regarding the same before a purchase is made. If that is not the case, the seller may

be held accountable to the point of fines, imprisonment and losing one's license.

With the money flowing in, are we being prudent enough to let the general public know that there is a potential downside to the hype? Are potential investors told that there is no guarantee that the current purchases are going to retain their value? Or are they being assured that everything is going to hell in a hand basket and this is your only way to survive in the future?

Precious metals are at the top of the investment pyramid along with fine art and collectables. Are people that can't afford their investments tanking being lured by the prospect of easy and permanent profits? If that is the case, then I would say be sure to include the prospects of more lawsuits and more federal and state regulations regarding the sale of precious metals in the future.

I'm not trying to put a damper on the party. I'm just cautioning to watch what we wish for as sometimes those wishes do come true. If the sky does fall, we may have helped it!

*Thad*

## NOW Board Meeting

October 2nd  
11:00

Milwaukee Numismatic Society's Coin Show at Serb Memorial Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma Ave. Milwaukee

## **ANA Missing Coins Returned**

Authorities recently announced that six Civil War-era coins stolen from the Museum of Transportation have been returned anonymously. Officials are not disclosing details, but said no one had been arrested. A museum spokeswoman declined to comment.

A silver dollar and five gold coins dating between 1849 and 1862 and believed to be worth nearly \$19,000 were discovered stolen June 12<sup>th</sup>. They were on loan from the American Numismatic Association Money Museum in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and had been part of the traveling exhibit, "Money of the U.S. Civil War." Investigators said there was no evidence of a break-in. Police made arrangements to send the coins back to Colorado.

## **ANA Establishes Education Fund**

The Robert Blecce Memorial Fund for the advancement of Numismatic Education was established by the ANA Board of Governors at their July 19th telephone board meeting.

## **2012 Summer Seminar**

The ANA Summer Seminars in Colorado Springs, CO offer the best numismatic education on the planet!

Plan ahead now and register for next year's Summer Seminar. The first session is scheduled for June 23-29, and the second session is June 30-July 6th.

For more information, call 719-482-9849.

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## **Central States Numismatic Society's 17th Anniversary Convention August 18-21, 2012**

Central States is inviting club members to attend their 73rd Anniversary Convention on April 17-21, 2012. The event will be held at the Schaumburg Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center, 1551 North Thoreau Drive in Schaumburg, Illinois.

In addition to a world class bourse with 250+ booths manned by leading dealers from approximately 30 states, the CSNS convention will feature an exceptionally high quality educational exhibit area, as well as two Heritage Signature Sales, one focused on rare coins and the other on collectible paper money.

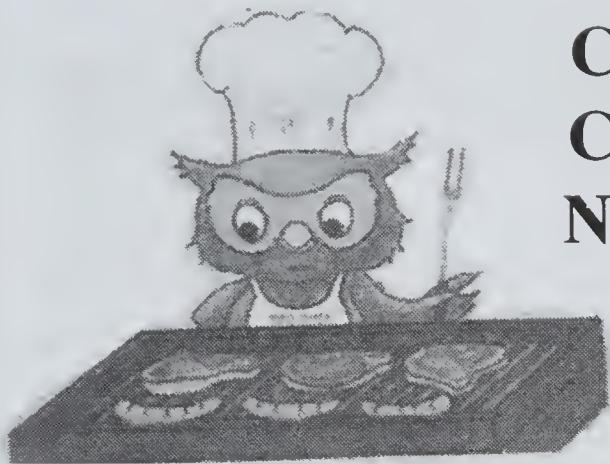
A complete Schedule of Events can be found on their website [www.centralstates.info](http://www.centralstates.info).

Admission to PNG Day is restricted to holders of a written invitation from a PNG member. Invitations are complimentary and are available from PNG headquarters by calling 951-587-8300 or by sending an e-mail request to [info@pngdealers.com](mailto:info@pngdealers.com). Otherwise admission on Wednesday is \$75. One \$75 fee is valid for both PNG Day and the Thursday Professional Preview Early Bird period.

To book reservations at the Schaumburg Renaissance Hotel, call the facilities directly at 847-303-4100 and mention rate code "CSNCSNA" for the special rate of \$139 (single or double). Parking at Sam and Harry's Parking at the Schaumburg Renaissance is complimentary for both overnight guests and day visitors.

Convention Chairman, Kevin Foley, hopes that the CSNS convention will be in your plans for 2012.

\* \* \*



## Coin Club News

### Madison Coin Club

Members and their families gathered at the Garner Park Shelter on August 8<sup>th</sup> for the club's annual picnic. Hot dishes, ham sandwiches, salads and desserts filled the table, which everyone enjoyed (along with a few rain drops). After the meal, we enjoyed a few games of Bingo, with most families winning a numismatic prize supplied by Jim Essence of Jim's Coins & Stamps.

On Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup> some members participated in a trip to the ANA Show in Rosemont, IL. The group left at 8:00 a.m. from the Park & Ride lot off the beltline and Stoughton Road and returned about 8:00 p.m. after a day of numismatic shopping.



### South Shore Coin Club

On May 21<sup>st</sup> the club's banquet was held at Meyers Restaurant. After a hearty dinner, a big "thank you" was given to everyone who donated their time to make this year's coin show a success. Congratulations to the South Shore members who won awards for their exhibits at the Central States show.

### Fishbowl Wooden Nickel Coin Club

The Fishbowl Wooden Nickel Coin Club held their annual coin show on Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, at the Siren Senior Center in Siren, WI. The new 2011 wood features a sand hill crane. It's available for 50¢ plus a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Send requests to: Fishbowl Wooden Nickel Coin Club, c/o Gary Schauls, 2702 150th Street, Luck, WI 54853-3811.



### Milwaukee Numismatic News

For the group's September meeting Lee Hartz has arranged for a private tour of the newly renovated Milwaukee County Historical Society, located near 3<sup>rd</sup> and Kilbourn, next to Pere Marquette Park in Milwaukee. The Historical Society's building has been renovated with many new exhibits.

Plans are being finalized for the MNS October 2<sup>nd</sup> show to be held at Serb Memorial Hall on West Oklahoma Avenue in Milwaukee.

\* \* \*



# Book Nook

## Krause Publications Unveils Decades Coin Folders

Krause Publications, a leading publisher of coin books, magazines and other collecting supplies, has released an innovative new series of coin folders that will be fun for children and parents alike -- Decades coin folders.

Comprised of five coin folders covering each decade from 1960 through 2009, Decades folders combine traditional folder elements with fun and educational lessons about history, pop culture, and coins.

"We are really excited to make our new Decades coin folders available to collectors" says KP numismatics publisher Scott Tappa. "It's easy to envision a parent or grandparent filling these folders with coins while teaching their child or grandchild about significant events from the year depicted on the coin, like the fall of the Berlin Wall, Watergate or the Beatles' landmark appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show."

Each 4-panel folder provides holes for collecting one of each type of circulating coin from a given year. The coins range from commonly-found cents, nickels, dimes and quarters to harder-to-find half dollars and dollars.

Along the bottom of each folder is a timeline covering the important milestones of the decade covered. Some milestones and facts – U.S. population, Super Bowl winner, cost of a first-class stamp, Academy Award winners – are noted for each year. Another important element in each folder is a concise yet thorough essay on developments in coinage during the decade.

Decades coin folders can be found online at [ShopNumismaster.com](http://ShopNumismaster.com) or wherever coin books and collecting supplies are sold. For more information, visit [www.sellcoinbooks.com/folders](http://www.sellcoinbooks.com/folders).

## America's Beautiful National Parks

This handbook for collecting the new National Park Quarters was written by Aaron McKeon, foreword by Kenneth Bressett. A dramatically illustrated photography book with stories about the parks and their coins can be purchased from Whitman Publishing for only \$19.95.

## Strike It Rich With Pocket Change

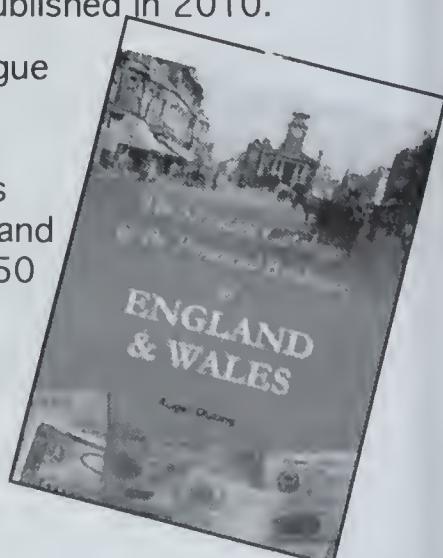
Now in its 3rd edition, this guide to treasure hunting loose change is back with dozens of new varieties of state quarters, Presidential dollars, "Ocean in View" nickels and Lincoln cents. It also includes expanded type and degree-of-information, in addition to more defined photos and illustrations. The 352-page hard-cover publication sells for \$19.99 and is available from Krause Publications or retail booksellers nationwide.

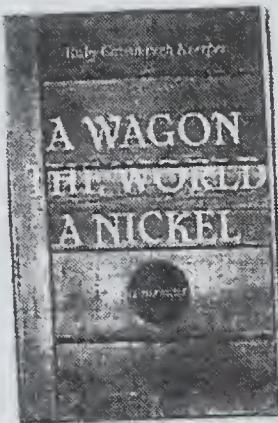
## The Standard Catalogue of the Provincial Banknotes of England and Wales

Roger Outing's Standard Catalogue of the Provincial Banknotes of England & Wales (Token Publishing, Inc.) has been named the International Banknote Society's 2011 Book of the Year, for works published in 2010.

The 520-page catalogue and price guide encompasses English and Welch bank notes issued prior to 1900 and includes more than 850 color illustrations.

[ref. ANA Numismatist]





**Ruby's Memoir.**  
Paperback  
\$14.99 + S&H

Ruby Cavanaugh Koerper  
(Ruby accepts PayPal.)  
rkoerper@columbus.rr.com

Website: [http://rubycavanaughkoerperstatepublishing.net/?page\\_id=5](http://rubycavanaughkoerperstatepublishing.net/?page_id=5)

**Children's Stories**  
ages 3 to 7  
Include e\lIVE download.

**Pedro**  
of Palo Alto Farm      **Elaine**  
of Palo Alto Farm

**Freddie**  
the Frog      **Pedro**  
PALESTINE

**Three Little**  
Ghosts

A set of 5 books from Ruby  
Includes a cloth bag  
\$8.99 each (plus \$2.75 S&H for  
up to 5 books)

## Krause Publications Announces ShopNumisMaster Affiliate Program

Krause Publications, a leading publisher of coin and paper money books, magazines, CDs, downloads and more, has launched an "Affiliate Partnership" program that allows operators of numismatic web properties to earn money from their audience.

Affiliate Partners can earn up to a 12% referral bonus on all sales from customers their sites refer to ShopNumisMaster.com – up to 5% more than competitive referral/affiliate programs.

KP makes it easy to become an Affiliate Partner. There is no cost to join the program. ShopNumismaster.com provides a variety of downloadable buttons, banners and text links for Partners to run on their website, blog and/or social networking page.

Click-throughs for referrals will be tracked using the power of the Link Connector Affiliate Network, which also calculates payments earned. Partners will receive payments monthly.

For more information, visit [www.shopnumismaster.com/shopnumismaster-affiliate](http://www.shopnumismaster.com/shopnumismaster-affiliate) or contact Affiliate Program@fwmedia.com.

Krause Publications, based in Iola, Wis., is the world's largest publisher of leisure-time periodicals and books on collectibles, sewing and quilting, hunting and construction. Chet Krause, a long-time collector of coins, published the first issue of Numismatic News on October 13, 1952, with nearly 1,000 readers. Today, Krause Publications, owned by F+W Media, offers more than 40 periodicals, 10 hobby shows, including the Chicago International Coin Fair and Chicago Paper Money Expo, 750 reference and how-to books and web properties such as NumisMaster.com, the online coin price database.

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# What's New?

## Vicksburg National Park Quarter

(US Mint)

The 2011 Vicksburg National Park Quarter represents the fourth release of the year for the new series featuring National Parks and National sites from across America. This will represent the 9<sup>th</sup> release of the overall series which began in 2010. The site of Vicksburg National Military Park was selected for the state of Mississippi.

The park commemorates one of the pivotal battles of the Civil War – the campaign, siege and defense of Vicksburg, Miss. Surrender on July 4, 1863, coupled with the fall of Port Hudson, LA, split the south, giving control of the Mississippi River to the North. The museum exhibits at the park depict the hardships of civilians and soldiers during the devastating 47 day siege of the city.

Vicksburg National Military Park was established in 1899 to commemorate the siege and defense of Vicksburg. The park includes more than 1,000 historic marks, monuments, and cannons. The park is also the site of Vicksburg National Cemetery, which holds the remains of more than 17,000 soldiers.

The United States Mint originally prepared four design candidates for the Vicksburg National Park Quarter. These were reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee and Commission of Fine Arts with different recommendations from each. The final design decision made by the Secretary of the Treasury matched the recommendation of the CCAC.



The reverse image depicts the U.S.S. Cairo on the Yazoo River as it would have been seen when it served the U.S. Navy during the Civil War. Inscriptions are VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI, 2011 and E PLURIBUS UNUM. Design candidates were developed in consultation with representatives of Vicksburg National Military Park

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*During the early 1920s, at the height of the inflation in the German Weimar Republic, one American dollar was equal to 4 trillion German marks.*

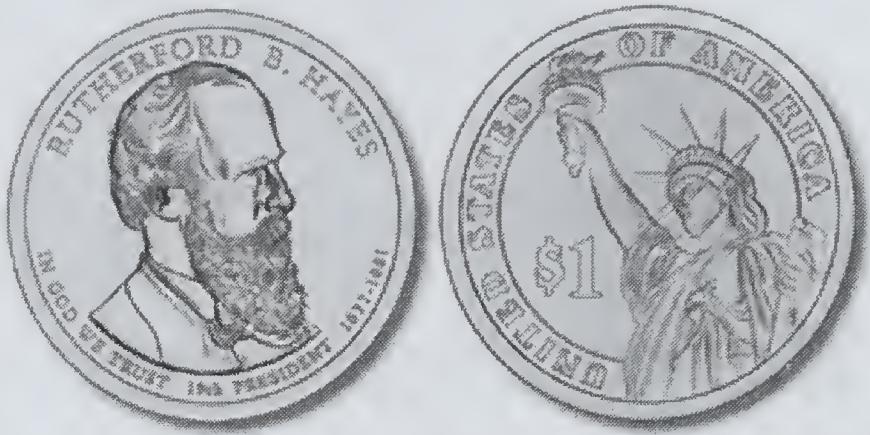
## Presidential \$1 Coin Rutherford B. Hayes 1877-1881

The newest presidential dollar coin was rolled out in a ceremony on August 18<sup>th</sup>, The U.S. Mint launched the event honoring our 19th President at the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in Fremont, Ohio. Following the ceremony, the public exchanged their cash for 25-coin rolls and the first 500 children received a new \$1 Hayes coin to commemorate the event.

Born in Ohio in 1822, Rutherford Hayes was educated at Kenyon College and Harvard Law School. He fought in the Civil War and was wounded in action. While he was still in the Army, Cincinnati Republicans nominated him for the House of Representatives, and he was elected by a heavy majority. Later, he served three terms as Ohio governor.

By 1876, he was the Republican candidate for President, and he ultimately prevailed by one vote in the Electoral College despite losing the national popular vote.

President Hayes insisted that his appointment be made on merit rather than political considerations. Nonetheless, he outraged many Republicans because one member of his cabinet was an ex-Confederate and another had bolted the party as a Liberal Republican in 1872.



### Coinage Legislation under President Hayes

- \* Act of February 28, 1878 – authorized coinage of the standard silver dollar and restored its legal tender character.
- \* Act of May 2, 1878 – Prohibited coinage of the 20 cent piece of silver.
- \* Act of June 8, 1878 – Constituted superintendents of mints or assayors in assay offices as assistant treasurers.
- \* Act of June 9, 1879 – provided for the exchange of subsidiary coins for lawful money of the U.S. under certain circumstances and made such coins legal tender in all sums not exceeding 10 dollars.

### U.S. Mint Directors Appointed by President Hayes:

Horatio Chapin Burchard of Illinois, 1879-1885.

Hayes had announced in advance that he would serve only one term as President, and he retired to Spiegel Grove, his home in Fremont, Ohio, in 1881, and died in 1893.

\* \* \*

# First Spouse Gold Coin

## Lucy Hayes 1877-1881

The Lucy Hayes First Spouse Gold Coins will be the 20<sup>th</sup> strikes of the U.S. Mint program which honors the former First Spouses of the Presidents of the United States. The program debuted in 2007 with at least 4 gold coins appearing annually from it. These coins mark the third scheduled to appear in 2011.

The First Spouse Gold Coins have a \$10 face value and are struck from ½ ounce of 24-karat gold to either proof or uncirculated condition. The Mint announced the release date as September 1, 2011.

Lucy was born to James and Maria Webb on August 28, 1831. She lost her father, who was a doctor, while still a young child. Despite the hardships associated with growing up without a father, she was given an excellent education and attended Westleyan Female College in Cincinnati, making her one of the first Presidential spouses to have done so.

Rutherford Hayes was in the midst of establishing a successful law practice when he met the young Lucy (9 years his junior). The romance blossomed and they were married on December 30, 1852. Rutherford was 30 years old and Lucy was 21. They lived in Cincinnati until the Civil War.

Rutherford and Lucy soon established a family with 4 sons and a daughter living to reach adulthood. Rutherford continued his law practice while Lucy ran the household. When Rutherford joined the army during the Civil War, Lucy often joined him in the field. She was known and well liked by many men under her husband's command during the war with her acts of kindness to wounded and dying soldiers, earning her the nickname "Mother Lucy". Her devotion to her husband and his work continued after the military. With a few terms in Congress under his belt, Rutherford



*The obverse shows a portrait of the Presidential spouse and the reverse shows Lucy participating in the first Easter Egg Roll held at the White House.*

was elected governor of Ohio and Lucy honed her social skills during this time and it served her well when Rutherford was elected to the Presidency in 1877.

The First Lady and President Hayes celebrated their silver wedding anniversary at the White House in 1877. The East Room was decorated in white flowers, with a great floral wedding ball beneath which the couple repeated their marriage vows. They exchanged portrait cameos as anniversary gifts to one another before a large crowd many of whom had attended their original nuptials.

Soon after they entered the White House, Lucy gave notice that no liquor or wines would be served while she was First Lady, thus earning her the nickname of "Lemonade Lucy". A story got around that at diplomatic dinners the servants, unknown to Mrs. Hayes, were supplying rum-filled oranges to the guests. Washington wags called this stage of her dinners the "Life-Saving Station." The President had his little chuckle about this. The joke was "not on us but on the drinking people" he wrote in his diary "My orders were to flavor (the oranges)... with the same flavor that is found in Jamaica rum. This took! There was not a drop of spirits in them."

The Hayes left the White House in 1881 and set about for a peaceful retirement. Lucy lived another 8 years before dying of a stroke on June 25, 1889.

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# Proposed Legislation Would End Presidential Dollar Coins

The Presidential \$1 Coin Program would not run its full course if several members of the Senate and House get their way. Two separate pieces of legislation have been introduced in the U.S. Congress which would ultimately end the dollar coins series dedicated to the former Presidents of the United States.

This new legislation comes in response to recent media attention that over \$1 billion worth of dollar coins are held in storage by Federal Reserve Banks. The massive stash of coins has been building up over the years with a marked increase occurring since the introduction of Presidential dollars four years ago.

Most attribute the inventory of dollar coins to two major factors. First, the public's resistance to the use of dollar coins for everyday circulation and second, requirements pertaining to the dollar coins placed on both the U.S. Mint and the Reserve Banks.

When Congress created the legislation for the Presidential series in 2005, undoubtedly one of the main reasons behind it was to win the public over to the idea that dollar coins could be used for daily commerce transactions. If it had occurred, it may have led to an easy transition from the \$1 banknote which ends up costing significantly more to produce over the long-term in comparison to a coin. Currently, \$1 banknotes have an expected life of 42 months according to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The U.S. Mint lists the life span of a coin at 25 years.

In 1971, Eisenhower Dollars were first minted, but proved unpopular with the public, owing to their size. They were followed in 1979 by the Susan B. Anthony Dollar which also proved unpopular despite being much smaller. Finally, in 2000, the Sacagawea Dollar made

its way to the public, but never took traction when it came to commerce.

Then in 2005, Congress passed the Presidential Coin Act of 2005. It sought to increase interest in the \$1 coin by honoring the former Presidents of the United States. The program debuted in 2007 and is scheduled to run through at least 2016, with four new dollar coins appearing each year honoring the Presidents in the order in which they served.

In passing that Act, Congress also placed certain demands on their production. It initially required that at least 1/3 of the total number of dollar coins produced in a year still feature the Sacagawea design. In addition, a mandatory introductory period was established which required Federal Reserve Banks to have sufficient supplies on hand of each of the new designs to insure broad public availability.

Together, the lack of interest in the coins and the mandated production and distribution meant that many more of the coins have been produced than are needed, which led to the build-up.

H.R. 2593 was introduced in the House of Representatives by Rep. Jackie Speier of California and is cosponsored by Rep. Jared Polis of Colorado. §1385 was also introduced in the Senate by Sen. David Vitter of Louisiana and cosponsored by Sen. Jim DeMint of South Carolina.

Either legislation, if it became law, would see the end of the Presidential \$1 Coin Program in its entirety. It's also likely to affect the First Spouse Gold Coin Program.

For the proposed legislation to become law, it must pass in both the chambers of Congress and win the signature of the President of the United States.

[ref. article written by Darrin Unser, published in Coin or Numismatic News]

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## Jury Rules Rare St. Gaudens Gold Coins Belong to U.S. Government

A federal jury has decided that 10 rare non-circulated gold coins that were allegedly legally obtained from the U.S. Mint in 1933 during a "window of opportunity" should remain in government hands.

A years long battle over the fate of 10 rare double eagle gold coins may have reached a climax as a Philadelphia jury backed the decision of the U.S. Government to confiscate the coins from the family of a deceased jeweler.

The government successfully convinced the jury that, more than 70 years ago, gold dealer and jeweler Israel Switt should not have gotten his hands on the gold coins that were to never be circulated.

The Secret Service claims Switt worked a shady deal with a U.S. Mint cashier to acquire the coins, which now are being held at Fort Knox. However, an attorney for Switt's survivors says the coins could have been legally obtained during a window of opportunity in March and April 1933.

Despite the jury's verdict the case remains subject to further proceedings in which a federal judge may decide the ultimate ownership of the coins.

A total of 13 coins are the sole survivors of a run of 445,000 double eagle \$20 gold coins minted in 1933. On April 5, 1933 President Franklin Roosevelt issued a presidential executive order, which forbade the hoarding of gold coin, gold bullion and gold certificates within the continental United States by individuals, partnerships, associations and corporations.

Two of the coins were deliberately set aside in 1933 and are housed in the Smithsonian. Another coin owned by dealer Stephen Fenton was the subject of a lengthy court battle to allow it to be sold at auction for \$7.59 million in 2002 after



Fenton agreed to split the proceeds with the U.S. Mint.

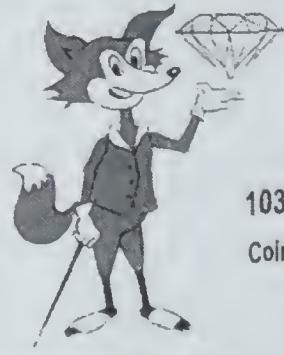
In a federal court trial, Switt's heirs argued the coins were their property, and they wanted them back. The family told the government about the coins in 2004 after the family found them in a safe deposit box in 2003. They had hoped the U.S. Treasury Department would authenticate them. The government seized them, arguing a regulation allowed it to grab property that "is travelable to any offense constituting specified unlawful activity".

The coins are believed to be worth more than \$75 million.

[ref. Clifton Star Resources Inc.]

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Voecks' **FOX VALLEY COIN & DIAMONDS, etc.**



103 E. Kimberly Avenue - Kimberly, WI 54136-1402  
Coin: 920-731-5451 - Fax: 920-788-3792 - Jewelry: 920-731-6261  
**Fritz Voecks**  
Fritz@FoxVCoin.com

[www.FoxVCoin.com](http://www.FoxVCoin.com)

## **H.R. 2527**

### **National Baseball Hall of Fame Commemorative Coin Act**

H.R. 2527 would authorize the U.S. Mint to produce a \$5 gold coin, a \$1 silver coin, and a half-dollar clad coin in calendar year 2015 to recognize and celebrate the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. The legislation also would require a competition to design the obverse of the coin.

In addition, the legislation specifies a surcharge on the sales price of \$35 for the gold coin, \$10 for the silver coin, and \$5 for the clad coin and would designate the National Baseball Hall of Fame, a nonprofit entity, to receive the income from the surcharges.

Because the legislation would affect direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures apply, but the Congressional Budget Office estimates that enacting H.R. 2527 would have no significant net impact on such spending over the 2012-2021 period. Enacting the bill would not affect revenues and would not have any significant impact on spending subject to appropriation.

H.R. 2527 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local and tribal governments.

This bill would authorize the U.S. Mint to produce up to 50,000 gold coins, 400,000 silver coins, and 750 clad coins (coins made with layers of different metals). The Mint would be authorized to sell each coin in 2015 at a price equal to the cost of design and production plus a surcharge.

[ref. Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate as reported by the House Committee on Financial Services on July 20, 2011].

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## **Numismatic Crime Info Center**

Crimes related to numismatics know no boundaries and affects the numismatic industry around the world. Millions of dollars in numismatic items have been stolen from collectors and dealers who have fallen prey to a numismatic crime.

### **About NCIC**

The Numismatic Crime Information Center (NCIC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation established to coordinate and collaborate initiatives in the law enforcement and the numismatic industry in “Targeting Numismatic Crimes Around the World.”

The successful outcome of a numismatic investigation is greatly enhanced when collectors, dealers and law enforcement personnel involved in the investigation and management of a numismatic crime utilize the most effective techniques and unique resources and assistance available today.

Collectors, dealers and law enforcement agencies nationally and internationally are hampered by the lack of a centralized and specialized resource to assist in meeting the challenges presented in the complexities of a numismatic crime.

The mission of the Numismatic Crime Information Center is to serve as a national and international resource for collectors, dealers and law enforcement in the education, prevention and investigation of crimes involving coins, paper money, tokens and related numismatic items.

### **NCIC fulfills its mission through several important initiatives:**

Maintaining a database of numismatic crimes and stolen property.

Providing technical assistance to local, state, federal and international law enforcement agencies in the investigation and prosecution of numismatic crimes.

Offering training to local, state, federal and international law enforcement agencies in the investigation of numismatic crimes.

Educating collectors and dealers in the prevention of numismatic crimes and the important role each plays within the investigative process.

Effective dissemination of numismatic crimes throughout the numismatic industry and law enforcement via publication, dedicated website and international alliances.

Networking with numismatic organizations globally to enhance the education and prevention of numismatic crimes.



#### Meet The Founder

Doug Davis, founder and president of NCIC is currently the City Manager and former Chief of Police in Pantego, Texas. Doug has over 30 years experience in law enforcement and

the numismatic industry. He is a graduate of the University of Texas and holds a Master Level Police Officer License in the state of Texas. Doug is a licensed law enforcement instructor and maintains a Lieutenant's status with the Pantego Police Department.

In 1987 Doug established the Numismatic Crime Information Center within the Pantego Police Department to assist law enforcement officers in the investigation of crimes against collectors and dealers. Later that same year he was instrumental in assisting the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the development of the National Stolen Coin File.

Recognized as an expert in numismatic investigations Doug developed the first and only accredited law enforcement school dealing with the investigation of

numismatic crimes and continues to assist law enforcement agencies across the country. The American Numismatic Association has recognized him for his numismatic investigations and in 1988 he was presented the PNG Sol Kaplan award for setting up a clearinghouse to coordinate investigations of crimes against the numismatic industry.

#### Anyone Can Be A Target

Davis cautions that anyone can be a target -- coin shops, coin shows and coin collectors are becoming frequent targets of thieves. To avoid becoming a victim, Davis gives the following tips:

If you're going to a show, you are a potential target. If you buy or sell, you have something that someone wants. People are out there looking for targets and they don't care if you're a dealer or a collector.

Don't let your guard down by flashing money, opening your brief case, sitting at the concession stand and bragging about what you bought or what your collection is worth.

The same goes for dealers. If you're carrying a million dollar inventory, you need to be on your toes. It's not just the big dealers, but small dealers too. Thieves are looking for the dealer who may be alone or up in age who could easily be hit after a show.

Davis says they've seen people actually come in, spread out in a room and look and walk out. They're casing the bourse floor and looking for the dealer or collector that would be a good target. Dealers have to be diligent about those who come to their table asking questions, leaving and returning. If they give you an uneasy feeling, that should raise a red flag.

Be aware if someone follows you around during the show or if you see the same people coming and going, and hanging around the hotel or convention center. If three or four people come in and they're talking on phones, they may be looking for targets on

the bourse floor. And don't think only big coin shows get hit by thieves. Smaller shows are just as vulnerable, and too often they have inadequate security. Davis takes umbrage with security personnel who merely sit at the entrance to the show giving the appearance that they're providing protection for the dealers and show attendees.

One of the most important things a bourse chairman has to do is security. He has to take charge and have the security personnel walking the bourse floor, talking to dealers and asking them to let them know if they see anything suspicious going on.

Recently coin dealers have been robbed as they load their cars to head home because there is no security outside the show. Dealers can't have apathy to think it's never going to happen to them. The climate today is that anyone can be a target.

Davis' advice, especially to dealers, is to keep their awareness "way up there". Keep your guard up. Know what's going on around you. If you lose your million dollar inventory you lose your business, your retirement.

For shop owners, Davis recommends they train their employees to realize a theft could happen at any moment. There's no perfect description of what a robber is going to look like. It could be someone in a suit or someone wearing a polo and Rolex and you wouldn't think this guy would do it.

Never assume that a male and female couple or an older person won't rob you. Age and gender, you can't rely on that. An 80-year-old can rob you just as easy as a 12-year-old.

Beware of suspicious phone calls or visits from people who don't know anything about coins. Document the activity regardless whether anything happens. There may be a robbery in another shop in town and you may have a license plate of a suspicious car that was at your shop.

[ref. internet on NCIC]

# Wow!

## We're the Winner of \$50,000

[by Ron Calkins #34:L

That's what the man told me when he called on August 10<sup>th</sup>... and he was even nice enough to offer to duplicate the winning ticket, if I couldn't find mine. What a deal – all I needed to do is send him a \$300 check to a Post Office box in New York to get my big winnings registered and the money on its way to Mazomanie!

Needless to say, RED FLAGS immediately went up and we just didn't answer the numerous calls we received within the next few days from a phone number in Nigeria.

The next Saturday morning the phone rang 5 or 6 times within 10 or 15 minutes – all from the same Nigerian number. My wife finally answered and asked the man with an accent what he wanted and why he's called for the "umpteenth" time — He said "Oh, mam, this is the first time I've called you – I just wanted to know if your cable was working OK" -- My wife's reply (in a not-too-nice voice) was "yes, it is and don't call us again" ... and he hasn't.

The July/August AARP bulletin included the following warning:

"So-called Nigerian scam calls and letters may seem amusing, but they're no laughing matter. Many people have lost thousands of dollars by sending advance fees that will supposedly pay taxes, bribes or bank charges to unlock a fortune. Despite the name, these scammers come from many countries and use your ID to drain bank accounts and credit card balances, warns the FBI. Even answering for yuks can put your e-mail address on shared "sucker lists" triggering a barrage of future spam. Best response: Delete all such come-ons unanswered."

\* \* \*

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# The Many Faces of Cristobal Colon

by Gene Johnson L-105

In every coin dealer's junk box, at one time or another, has resided one of the hundreds of different tokens or medals that recall Columbus, the "Discoverer of America" ... (more on that later).

In his 1980s era reference book "Columbiana", Chicago numismatist Nathan N. Eglit defined 596 different pieces of exonumia that remembered Columbus. A number of significant pieces have been discovered since the book was published.

It is interesting that with this outpouring of metal images of Columbus, no one has ever known what the explorer looked like. How then could we get the Columbus portrait on the 1892 commemorative U.S. half dollar?

*The first United States commemorative coin was the Columbian half dollar designed by Olin Lewis Warner. C.E. Barber engraved the obverse showing the bust of Columbus.*



There were no cameras in 1492, and typically only royalty could afford to have a portrait painted. Two paintings were purported to be of the explorer, one was an outright fabrication, created in 1570, the other very "questionable", having been painted in 1512, six years after the death of the poverty-stricken Columbus in 1506.

This 1512 painting, the so-called Lorenzo Lotto, was declared the best "likeness" of Columbus, and was used as a model for the U.S. Columbian half dollar. In today's

rationale, this may well be described as bottom of the barrel desperation.

If you have ever wondered just how many cities and communities in our nation are named after Columbus, you will be pleased to know that the postal service zip code book lists no less than 55 such communities.

Right here in central Wisconsin is one of the finest collections of "Columbiana" ever assembled. Located at the Columbus, Wisconsin antique mall and museum, this expansive exhibit is free for public viewing.

In recent years a more insightful view of the explorer has crept into the media, which for over 100 years has presented a fairy tale view of the man and his time in our nation's history.

In our public school classrooms, it is taught that Columbus was the discoverer of America, although anyone with a mild historical interest understands that the continental United States of America was explored and colonized 500 years earlier by the Vikings, and perhaps earlier than that by the Phoenicians.

The fact that Columbus never set foot in the continental United States is not widely publicized, and the horror, torture and death he brought to the "new world" is rarely brought to light in the press. Most surely, never on "Columbus Day".

The explorer's ruthless search for gold, and his seizure and brutalization of slaves, is today a huge embarrassment to an America that in the past has lionized the bold mariner.

The medalic token and token art that remembers Columbus ranges from the arcane to the sublime. Many of the 1893 World's Fair medals are beautifully designed and struck with a host of different facial renderings.



*Unlisted in Eglit.  
Similar to Eglit #462  
(Gene Johnson collection)*



*Beardless Columbus facing left.  
Roman nosed Columbus in 1899,  
Model unknown.  
Eaglit #434 Reburiel medal (Seville)*



*Unlisted in Eglit.  
Similar to Eglit #216  
struck in brass.  
(Gene Johnson  
collection)*



In the decades following the World's Fair, diesinkers created eclectic depictions to represent the explorer in an effort to give the world a more close-up look of the man. These include the 1892-93 coins of Salvador, the 50 centavo of Columbia in 1892, and the Costa Rica gold coins of 1897. Most of these generalizations were created from brief verbal descriptions of Columbus by historic recorders, including his son (i.e. "he had an aquiline nose").

In our visits to the Columbus Wisconsin museum over the years, it became apparent many pieces of exonumia were not present in the Columbus Wisconsin museum. (I had many of these in my holdings). Some of my artifacts are noteworthy, well-known and cataloged World's Fair items; others are unlisted, low quality souvenir pieces that are cranked out for tourists each year.



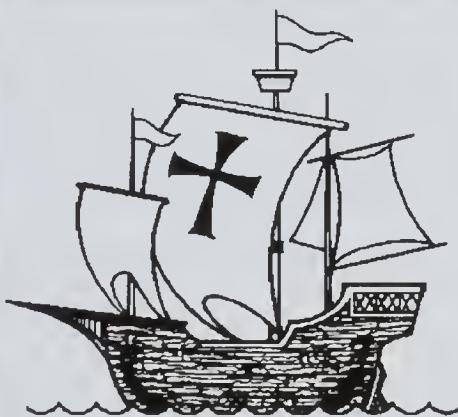
*Columbus portrayed as a nobleman, but he was a pariah in Spain most of his short life. Eglit #135 on display at Columbus Wisconsin Museum.*

Columbus bashing has become rampant as the playing field is leveled with the true story of his life. His many years as a religious icon has been severely tarnished by the untainted research of today's historians.

This fall from grace and passage of time, has brought about a decline in the desirability of Columbianiana, and who knows, perhaps today would be a good time to start to build a collection of the many pieces of exonumia which are now more modestly priced.

The name "Cristobal Colon"??  
-- that's what Chris called himself!

\* \* \*



### Did You Know ???

It costs more to buy a new car than it cost Christopher Columbus to equip and undertake three voyages to and from the New World.

## Visiting Europe on the Euro

[by Leon Saryan #100L]

Our recent trip to Europe brought some numismatic insights as well as some numismatic souvenirs.

We took a river cruise on the Danube in southeast Germany (Bavaria), Austria, and Hungary. Germany and Austria are in the Euro zone, but Hungary officially still uses the Forint. Even in Hungary, however, the Euro was universally accepted.

Most of Europe is very comfortable using the Euro. The exchange rate is about \$1.50 per Euro, and for convenience I highly recommend obtaining a supply of Euro notes before leaving the states. A month before our departure I contacted M&I Bank in Milwaukee and obtained 500 Euros for spending money. M&I charged about 5% markup, which is well worth it since you don't have to take a chance while sightseeing. As an added bonus, the 5-, 10- and 20-Euro notes supplied by M&I were all in crisp uncirculated condition.

While traveling, you will also need some Euro coins. These are NOT available from M&I, so you can either get some when you land, or as I did, raid your coin collection and bring them with you. Unlike the USA, in Europe coins are frequently used when purchasing moderately priced items, such as food. In Europe they often charge (or request tips or donations) for the use of public bathrooms (known as WC's), so you should have small change at the ready. You don't want to be fumbling around with 5- Euro notes while zipping up your fly.

Euro coins run in denominations up to 2-Euro (\$3), while notes begin at 5-Euro (\$7.50) and go up from there. The 1- and 2-Euro coins are very handy; they're bimetallic and readily stand out in a handful of change.

I also picked up about \$100 worth (17,000) of Hungarian forints. M&I considers the forint an "exotic" currency so they impose a \$15

surcharge to provide the notes. These notes were mostly well circulated.

Although you may be charged to use a bathroom, we were not surcharged for sales or value-added tax. The price marked is the price you pay, from which the merchant extracts the tax on his own. Cash is universally accepted, which proved handy while shopping -- my wife found a jacket for sale at a bargain price that could only be purchased with Euros (no dollars or credit cards).

I was able to find numismatic souvenirs in most places that we visited. In Regensburg, Germany, I located a small coin and stamp shop in the old city. In Vienna, I found the store of H.D. Rauch, one of the most prominent European dealers, but was unable to spend any time there.

In Regensburg I purchased an attractive 45 mm city-view medal of that city struck in silver in 1974. The medal appears to copy a silver taler from the reign of Francis I, emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, who ruled from 1745-1765. History books indicate that Francis was content to philander while his much better known (both historically and numismatically) wife, Maria Theresa, ruled the country. This medal has great eye appeal and is in nearly perfect condition.

During the Middle Ages, Regensburg (inscribed Ratisbona on the medal) was an important trading center and a gathering point for Crusader soldiers headed for the East. Its medieval bridge, still well preserved, can be seen on the medal, and the city's cathedral is on the right side.



*Silver medal of Regensburg (Ratisbona) in southeastern Germany*

## The Chinese Fake Coin Plague

by Leon Saryan #100L

The interception of a package of 361 fake US trade dollars, recently shipped from China to a recipient near Chicago, brings into sharp focus a growing epidemic that threatens to contaminate the numismatic record and sink the numismatic hobby. The recipient had grown impatient with the delivery delay and contacted US Customs. He allegedly stated that he was planning to distribute the fakes using an internet auction site such as eBay (article from Chicago Tribune, April 22, 2011).

For the past several years forgeries originating in China and the Far East, especially 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century silver dollars, have flooded the numismatic trade. I have occasionally encountered Chinese-made forgeries of trade dollars, seated dollars, and Morgans. Most of these fakes are not hard to identify in a crowd, they have diagnostic features that give them away. Gradually, however, the quality of these fakes has improved to the point that experts are being routinely deceived.

So I was more than interested when, at the recently concluded Central States Numismatic Society convention in Rosemont, Dr. Gregory Dubay of Alabama gave an educational seminar on Chinese-made forgeries. In the course of his presentation, Dr. Dubay pulled out 12 really good looking Morgan dollars of various dates, and challenged anyone in the crowd of attendees to visually identify the single genuine coin in the group.

Being bold, I took the challenge. We were told that all 12 had the correct weight, diameter, and metal content (in and of itself, this is a troubling development), and we were to decide solely on appearance. Based on my familiarity with Chinese fakes, I thought this would be relatively easy. At first glance, however, every one of the dollars looked OK!

After examination with a magnifier, I was able to pick out a few of the bad ones, but within seconds I realized that the task of identifying the single genuine Morgan would be nearly impossible.



Dr. Dunbay also showed photographs of one of the largest fake coin factories in China, the Big Tree Coin Factory in Fujian Province, owned and operated by Lin Ciyun. The presses in this factory were originally used in a US mint facility, then given to China in the early 1900's and scrapped by the Chinese government in the mid-1950's. Lin bought the presses and now uses them to produce (by his admission) over 100,000 fake coins per month. There are dozens, if not hundreds, of other coin factories in China like this one, producing fakes that vary in quality from very poor to extremely deceptive. These factories can also produce fake coins to-order, as Dr. Dunbay was able to demonstrate, and even fake coin albums.

The fakes are then distributed to hundreds of small-time Chinese wholesalers who look for USA-based distributors. They are then shipped to the USA, sometimes with a stamp on the face indicating it is a copy, but more often with no indication whatsoever that the piece is not genuine.

The Hobby Protection Act of 1973 makes it illegal to manufacture or import replicas that are not prominently marked "COPY" on one of the faces. This law is virtually universally

ignored by overseas counterfeiters. In China, the plague is so prevalent that it is believed that 80% or more of all fake goods (coins as well as poisonous pet-food, lead-tainted toys, shoes, clothing, antiques, handbags, batteries, you name it) seized by US Customs originates in China.

China does not appear to abide by copyright rules that govern the rest of the world. There is virtually no prohibition to counterfeiting, unless you try to counterfeit Chinese money made since the Communist takeover in 1949, in which case you are likely to (literally) get a bullet to the back of your head!

I have long thought that it would be very useful to publish detailed diagnostics to help coin authenticators, collectors and dealers spot these nefarious forgeries at a glance. The seminar speakers, however, convinced me that this is a bad idea, because the fakers themselves avidly read our publications. Within days after their flaws are publicized, the fakers improve the quality of their forgeries making them harder to detect.

#### What's the solution?

For one, much more careful scrutiny of all shipments coming into the United States, especially those from China, is needed. It is especially important to police internet outlets for fakes and to go after the distributors. The preferred outlet for these fakers is eBay, and it's not only Chinese fakes that abound there. Ancient coin fakes from Bulgaria and the Middle East are everywhere as well. Although eBay makes a pretense of prohibiting fakes from their site, in reality they take no action, even when obvious forgeries are repeatedly pointed out to them.

Numismatists, beware! This situation is already bad and it's quickly getting worse.

\* \* \*

# Major General Franz Sigel

by Fred Borgmann #1175

Some of the most colorful and interesting badges are those of the various veterans and fraternal societies issued from the 1880s to the early 1900s. Often these badges have overlapping points of interest like the one illustrated here featuring the German immigrant and Civil War Major General Franz Sigel.



The badge is a membership badge of the G.U.G. Germania which was a national level mutual aid society for German-Americans. This particular badge was issued in Wausau, Wisconsin by the local branch of "Verein" number 46 which was established in September of 1902 and named in honor of Franz Sigel who had just died that August.

Sigel was a hero

*"In memorium  
Frank Sigel  
Verein, No. 46  
G.U.G. Germania  
Wausau, Wis  
Gegründet Am 28,  
September, 1902.*

in the German-American community. I am not sure exactly why Sigel was such a hero to the Germans, but he definitely was very influential in their community.

Sigel was born in Baden, Germany, graduated from the Karlsruhe military academy and was a commissioned officer in the army of the Grand Duchy of Baden.

In 1847 he retired from the military and went to law school. Shortly afterwards he joined the revolutionary forces as a Colonel; recruited more than 4,000 volunteers and then led them into annihilation against the royalist troops of Prussia and Wuerttemberg. He then fled to the USA via Switzerland and England where he taught school, went into publishing and politics. As director of the St. Louis Public Schools, he was very successful in recruiting Germans to the anti-slavery and Union cause.

In May of 1861 he was commissioned a Colonel of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Missouri Infantry and met his first defeat of many, in the battle of Carthage. Due to his influence with the German immigrants and his ability to recruit large numbers for the army, President Lincoln promoted him to the rank of Brigadier General. His military education and another promotion to Major General didn't help him much militarily as his record reflects a long line of defeats and precious few victories.

Considered militarily inept, his career ended in noncombatant assignments. After the war Sigel became an editor and went into politics first as a Republican and then as a Democrat. He certainly was an influential speaker and writer, but I would not have wanted to serve under him in the war-time military.

The G.U.G. Germania badge shown below has a picture of Sigel in uniform as a one star general suspended from a white ribbon with crossed American flags suspended from a clasped hands brooch from which the black-white-red backdrop ribbon is also suspended.

*Franz Sigel  
Verein, No. 46  
G.U.G. Germania  
Wausau, Wis.  
Gegründet  
AM 28  
September, 1902.*



As with nearly all such membership badges the back drop ribbon can be reversed showing the design in black for wear at funerals. Unfortunately, as time went on the black side was worn too often. As the original membership died off, the recruiting efforts among the second through fourth generations failed and these organizations became financially unviable.

\* \* \*

## How To Start Building a Coin Collection

[ANA Discover]

There are thousands of ways to build a collection and no right or wrong way to do it. The key is to begin by collecting what you like. You can spend a lifetime collecting in the same area of interest or hop from subject to subject as you learn more and your interests change. Here are some suggestions:

- Collect one coin from every country on the globe, or world coins that honor famous people or events or a nation's plants and animals. Know more! Visit the ANA website, [www.money.org](http://www.money.org), and click on Links, then Mints, Banks and Government Sites.
- A Native American collection could include the 2000 Sacagawea dollar and an Indian-head/Buffalo nickel.
- You can build a "birthday collection" containing one coin of each denomination minted in your birth year.
- Collect coins from a certain era -- the Civil War, the Roman Empire or the Middle Ages. It's a great way to learn about world history.
- You might build a complete set of 20th century cents, five-cent pieces, dimes or quarters.
- Other collecting areas include U.S. and world paper money, casino chips, military payment notes, bus tokens, Confederate paper money, U.S. and world commemorative coins, wooden nickels and even credit cards. You are limited only by your imagination.

Buy slowly at first, giving yourself time to absorb the knowledge that will make you an informed buyer.

\* \* \*

# Surprising Find in the McCormick/ International Harvester Collection

[Wisconsin Historical Society]

Who would expect to find 24,000 vintage Mexican 20-peso bank notes in an archival collection documenting the history of an international agricultural implement manufacturer?

That's one of the surprises contained in the McCormick/International Harvester Collection that came to the Wisconsin Historical Society in 2001. Researcher Peter S. Dunham, an associate professor of anthropology at Cleveland State University, had run across stray examples of mint-condition 20-peso notes while conducting archaeological research in Yucatan and began searching for their source. In the Yucatan government archives he uncovered an intriguing story that would eventually lead him to the mother lode of banknotes that ended up in the society's archives.

Here, in capsule summary, is what Dunham's research revealed:

In the early years of the 20th century, Mexico found itself in the midst of a revolution to topple a dictatorship that had ruled the country with an iron fist for more than three decades. Money was in short supply, and many local agencies began issuing currency. One of these was a consortium of agricultural producers in Yucatan, the "Reguladora" cartel, which issued a printing of 20-peso notes in January 1915.

Into this volatile mix came a renegade military officer who overthrew the post-revolution governor of Yucatan, who in turn escaped with the contents of the state treasury, leaving the mutinous governor without any funds. The renegade governor resolved that problem by issuing another 200,000 20-peso bills, then forced the Yucatecan brokerage of the International Harvester Company to "loan" him a half-million U.S. dollars in exchange for most of the illegitimate 20-peso bills. Fearing further losses, the broker fled to the U.S. with most of the bogus tender.

After failed attempts to negotiate the safe return of the now worthless 20-peso bills, the broker eventually sold them back to International Harvester, which tried in vain to recover their value from the Mexican government. They finally wound up in International Harvester's archives, which the company later transferred to the Society.

In an intriguing sidebar to the story, the renegade governor escaped to New York and later France, a half million dollars richer.

\* \* \*



one of the 20-peso banknotes

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# Ten Do's and Ten Don'ts of Numismatic Exhibiting

by Leon Saryan #100L

Preparing a winning exhibit requires a combination of numismatic knowledge and an appreciation for aesthetic design. A collector needs to learn in detail about his material and to present it in an informative, tasteful and pleasing manner. Gold coins make great prize awards, but the greatest reward is the knowledge you will gain and the satisfaction of a job well done.

As a gesture of thanks for all the exhibit prizes that I have won over the past 12 years, I offer here 10 do's and 10 don'ts to help exhibitors prepare better exhibits.

## Do:

1. Choose a theme and gather the material you will need.
2. Research your topic thoroughly.
3. Focus on numismatic items, using a few related "fu-fus" to add interest and color.
4. Select an appropriate color pattern and design. Continue these in all of the cases.
5. Choose an appropriate title and place it prominently in the first case. Larger lettering will draw attention to the title.
6. Place an introductory statement in the first case with information about rarity of the items.
7. Be concise, but include basic and detailed numismatic information. For coins, mention the metal, size, weight, mintage, mint location, and designer name, if known.
8. Devise a method to show the hidden side of the coin.
9. Neatness and eye appeal are very important. Always clean the glass thoroughly on both sides before laying out your display.

10. Raise small dark coins (such as copper cents close to the glass if possible.

## Don't:

1. Use an ordinary typewriter to make your labels. Nowadays, everyone uses a computer to prepare the text.
2. Use an ordinary scissors to cut your labels. It looks sloppy and judges notice.
3. Make numismatic errors. Lincoln cents are not "pennies".
4. Make spelling or grammatical errors. I have seen otherwise great exhibits lose points needlessly for avoidable typographic errors.
5. Choose a title that doesn't agree with your exhibit. If your title is "Complete Collection of Silver Dollars", you better have them all, even the rare ones.
6. Mention your name anywhere in the exhibit.
7. Inadvertently display a coin upside down (I did this once!).
8. Expect viewers to know the details of your subject. It's your job to present it to them concisely, in terms they can understand.
9. Forget to check your cases one last time before you lock them.
10. Don't challenge a judge's decision. If a criticism is legitimate, fix it next time.

\*\*\*

**Exhibiting is a great way to share with other collectors your area of collecting interest and the many different areas of numismatics!**

## R.K. Findlay, Druggist and Grocer?

The many Civil War Token members interested in druggists may be interested in the following excerpts from "Drugs and Medicines, Tobacco and Segars" -- As Madison Grows, Pharmacy, Gros, by Russell W. Archer. The interesting book was published in 1980 and carries Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 29-892. The excerpts give a bit of light on Wisconsin's 410-C-1a Findlay card.

The partnership of Wright and Paine continued until 1859 when the entire stock was sold to R.K. Findlay. According to the Wisconsin State Journal (August 18 1859) the partnership was dissolved amicably. George Paine received all "of the notes, book accounts and obligations due to the said late firm."

Simultaneously, a similar, but more detailed announcement was published by John Wright: "Having this day sold my entire interest in the stock of Drugs, Medicines, etc., lately belonging to the firm of Wright and Paine, to R.K. Findlay, Esq., I would cheerfully recommend him to our former customers, and the public, as a man of the first business habits and qualifications, especially as a Druggist, believing that all those who may favor him with their patronage will find themselves fairly and honestly dealt with.  
-- John Wright."

Note! Wright's reference to R.K., Findlay as a "Druggist" was especially interesting.

When Simeon Mills added the second building (108 King Street) to his original Mills Block (occupied by John Wright), his first tenant was R.K. Findlay, grocer. There had been no previous mention by newspaper, city directory, or historian of Mr. Findlay as a "Druggist." In fact, the records suggest

that George Paine stayed on with Findlay to act in this capacity until brother Alex Findlay, pharmacist, arrived from Scotland.

### Now on to Brother Alex

Alexander Findlay arrived in Madison in 1863 and was pleased with what he learned. Not only had his brother become a leader in the field of drugs and groceries, but had lately moved into the impressive Mills Block at 7 King Street, taking over the Wright and Paine's Drug and Medicine Emporium. It was no difficult task to convince Alex that it would be an excellent investment if he were to

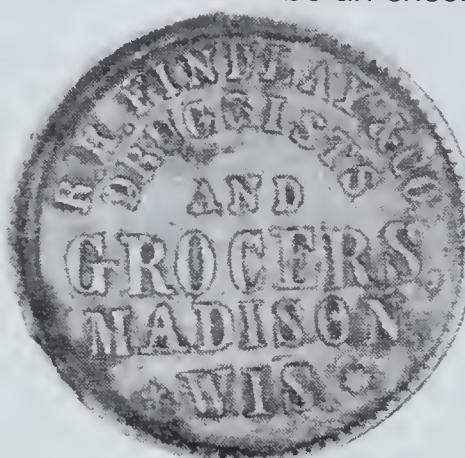
take over the business from his older brother. Not only would his youthful 25 years of age be an asset, but the fact that he was a pharmacist would better enable him to compete in that sphere of activity. The business and store's name became A. Findlay and Company in 1864.

During the next 10 years Alex rode the post-Civil War business boom, averaging \$85,000 - \$100,000 annually. He, like many others, had been lulled into believing that prosperity was here to stay. The very fact that he had

survived the failure of Simeon Mills' Bank of Madison and had outlasted his neighboring competitor (Clark and Mills), merely bolstered Findlay's confidence. Little did he realize that it would be just two years hence (1875) when dame fortune would turn her smiling face and the Findlay brothers would be forced to "go to the wall."

An adversity of this nature would have destroyed a man of less character. Instead, within 3 years this determined Scotsman was in business once again... this time at 119 East Doty Street. There was no further mention of his brother, Robert K. Findlay, as a member of the firm.

[ref. this article was originally submitted by Robert C. Kraft and was published in the Copperhead Courier the summer of 1987.]



R.K. Findlay  
Druggists & Grocers  
Civil War Token  
Madison, Wis.

## Coin Club Meetings

### Barron County Coin Club

Meets 7:00 p.m. the 2nd Thursday of each month at the School Administration Bldg., 700 Augusta St., Rice Lake. Contact Barron County Coin Club, P.O. Box 362, Rice Lake, WI 54868..

### Chippewa Valley Coin Club

Meets at 7:00 on the 1st Thursday of each month in the basement of Parks Rec. Bldg., 1300 1st Ave. in Eau Claire. PO Box 2140 Eau Claire, WI 54702.

### Elgin IL Coin Club

Meets at 7:30 1st Wednesday at the VFW Post 1307, 1601 Weld Rd., Elgin, IL 60123. Contact Don Cerny, PO Box 561, S. Elgin, IL 60177. Ph. 847-888-1449.

### Fishbowl Wooden Nickel Coin Club

Meets the 3rd Thursday (April-October); at the Siren Sr Center, 23943 State Road 35, Siren, 7:00 traders; 8:00 business meeting. Contact Gary Schauls, 2702 150th St., Luck, WI 54853-3811. Phone 715-472-2002.

### Fond du Lac Coin Club

Meets the 1st Tuesday (May thru Sept.) at the Senior Center East 2nd Street in Fond du Lac. Contact Fond du Lac Coin Club, PO Box 254, Oshkosh, WI 54903.

### Fox Valley Coin Club

Meets at 7:30 the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at Prime Time Club, 11150 Valley Road, Menasha.

### Intl. Bank Note Society - Midwest Chapter

Meets 1 p.m. at North Shore Library in Glendale. [www.mclfis.org/northshorelibrary](http://www.mclfis.org/northshorelibrary).

### Kenosha Coin Club

Meets at 7:30 on the 1st Thursday of each month (except July & August) at the Kenosha Union Club, 3030 39th Ave, Kenosha. Contact: Jerry Binsfeld 262-657-4653.

### Kettle Moraine Coin & Stamp Club

Meets at 7:30 on the 2nd Thursday of each month at Silverbrook Middle School, 120 N. Silverbrook Drive in West Bend. Youth meeting at 6:30. Contact: Dave Hunsicker 262-328-6064.

### Lake County Coin Club

Meets 7:00 the 1st Tues. each month at the Warren Township Library, O'Plaine Rd., Gurnee, IL. (Alternate mtg. place at Gurnee Police Dept., 100 N. O'Plaine Rd.. Contact: George Efsen, 847-244-5160.

### Lakeland Coin & Stamp Club

Meets at 6:45 the first and third Thursday of each month at Lakeland Senior Center, Woodruff, WI.

### Madison Coin Club

Meets at 7:00 on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Alicia Ashman Branch of the Madison Public Library, 733 N. High Point Road. Contact Tom Galway. Phone 608-238-1722.

### Manitowoc Coin Club

No regular monthly meetings. An annual coin show is held in February. Contact Al Hrudka 920-775-4979.

### Milwaukee Numismatic Society

Meets at 7:00 on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the Mayfair Mall Community Room, 2500 N. Mayfair Road in Wauwatosa (use #2 entrance, east side of mall). [www.milwaukeenumismaticsociety.com](http://www.milwaukeenumismaticsociety.com).

### Nicolet Coin Club

Meets at 6:30 on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday at the Bay Family Restaurant corner of Military and 9th St. in Green Bay.

### Racine Numismatic Society

Meets at 7:30 on the 2nd Thursday at Castlewood Restaurant in Sturtevant (across street from the old Amtrack Depot). Contact Bill Spencer 262-637-7766. (no July or Aug. mtg).

### Richland Center Coin Club

Meets 7:00 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Bowling Alley. No meetings June/July/August. Contact Larry Schlafer 608-279-1182.

### Rockford Area Coin Club

Meets 6:30 on 3rd Thursday at North Suburban Women's Club, 6320 2nd St., Loves Park, IL. Contact: Rockford Area Coin Club, c/o Darrell Schultz, P.O. Box 294, Cherry Valley, IL 61016.

### Sheboygan Coin Club

Meets at 7:00 every other Tuesday at Maple Lanes, 3107 S. Business Dr., in Sheboygan. Contact Sheboygan Coin Club, PO Box 907, Sheboygan, WI 53082.

### South Shore Coin Club

Meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at St. Roman's Parish Office, 1710 W. Bolivar Ave. in Milwaukee. Contact Walter Weis 414-384-7966. [www.sscmke.org](http://www.sscmke.org).

### Waukesha Coin Club

Meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 1st Wednesday of each month at the Waukesha Salvation Army offices at 445 Madison St., Waukesha. Contact Forrest Schumacher, 2300 Avalon Drive, Waukesha, WI 53186. Ph: 262-542-5990. [www.waukeshaco-inclub.com](http://www.waukeshaco-inclub.com).

### Wisconsin Valley Coin Club

Meets at 6:30 on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month at Schofield Coin & Hobby, 754 Grand Ave., Schofield, WI 54476. (June, July, Aug. mtg 3rd Tue.) Contact Thad Strceter, 715-574-2777..

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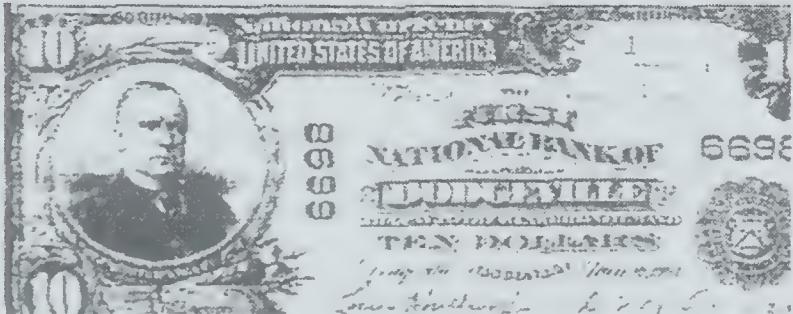
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# **Numismatists of Wisconsin**

## **Membership Application**

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Send \$10 dues and application to:  
NOW, PO Box 155, Mazomanie, WI 53560



Please send information on your upcoming show to the NOW News Editor, PO Box 155, Mazomanie, WI 53560. Include name of club, location of show, dates, hours, number of tables and your show/bourse chairman's name, address and phone number.

## 2011

### September 8-10, 2011 - ILNA

Illinois Numismatic Assoc. 52nd Coin & Currency Show at Holiday Inn - Tinley Park Convention Center, 18501 S. Harlem Ave., Tinley Park, IL. Bourse Chm. Jim Pacz, PO Box 628, Richton Park, IL 60471: Phone 708-670-3469.

### September 25, 2011 - Rockford, IL

Rockford Area Coin Club's 110th Semi Annual Coin Show at Hoffman House /Holiday Inn, 7550 E. State St., Rockford, IL 61108. 58 tables, Bourse Chm. Don Smith, 100 W. Main St., Rockton, IL 61072. Phone: 815-624-0422 or e-mail dcoins0302@aol.com.

### October 2, 2011 - Milwaukee

MNS Annual Coin Show at American Serb Memorial Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma Ave., Milwaukee. \$1 admission. Hours: 9-4 p.m. 75 tables. Show Chm. Tom Casper, 414-425-5444 or tcasper57@hotmail.com.

### October 13-15, 2011 - ANA

ANA National Money Show at David Lawrence Convention Center. Pittsburgh, PA. Phone ANA Meeting Services, 719-482-9857; [www.nationalmoneyshow.com](http://www.nationalmoneyshow.com).

### October 22, 2011 - Sheboygan Falls

Sheboygan Coin & Stamp Show at Sheboygan Falls Municipal Hall, 375 Buffalo St., Sheboygan Falls. Hours: 9-3:30 p.m. 40 tables. Contact Ed Rautmann, PO Box 907, Sheboygan, WI 53082. Phone: 920-893-5864.

### October 29, 2011 - Rice Lake

Barron County Coin Club's show at Cedar Mall, 2900 S. Main St. Rice Lake, WI. Hours: 9:30-3:00 p.m. Bourse Chair Sue Peterson, P.O. Box 362, Rice Lake, WI 54868.

### October 30, 2011 - Elgin, IL

Elgin Coin Club Annual Fall Show at VFW Post 1307, 1601 Weld Road, Elgin, IL. Hours: 9-4:00 p.m. 34 tables. Contact Don Cerny, PO Box 561, South Elgin, IL 60177. Phone: 847-888-1449.

### November 5, 2011 - Kenosha

Kenosha Coin Club's Show at Kenosha Union Club, 3030 39th Ave., Kenosha, WI 53142. Hours: 9-3:00 p.m. 28 tables, Contact Jerry Binsfeld, 6040 39th Ave. Suite 7, Kenosha, WI. 53142. Phone 262-657-4653 (business) or [jfBinsfeld@yahoo.com](mailto:jfBinsfeld@yahoo.com).

### November 6, 2011 - Madison

Coin Show at Sheraton Hotel, 706 John Nolan Drive, Madison. Hours: 9:00-4:00 p.m. 55 tables. Show Contact: John Krueger, 123 W. Cook Street, Portage, WI 53901. Phone: 608-745-3330.

### November 13, 2011 - Green Bay

Nicolet Coin Show at Comfort Suites/Rock Garden, 1951 Bond St., Green Bay. Hours: 9-4 p.m. 39 tables. Bourse Chm. Roger Bohn, 1345 Ponderosa Ave., Green Bay, WI 54313. Phone: 920-819-7294.

## **2012**

### **February 19, 2012 - Oshkosh**

Wisconsin Coin Expos LLC 29th annual coin show at Oshkosh Convention Center, 2 N. Main Street, Oshkosh, WI. Hours: 9-5 p.m. Contact Randy Miller, 920-231-6161.

### **February 26, 2012 - Racine**

Racine Numismatic Society's Coin Show at Roma Lodge, Racine.

### **March 25, 2012 - Numismatists of Wisconsin**

NOW and Madison Coin Club's Annual Show at the Sheraton Hotel, 706 John Nolan Drive, Madison, WI. Hours: 9-4 p.m., 50 tables. Contact Jim Essence, Jim's Coins, 702 N. Midvale Ave., Madison, WI. Phone 608-233-2118.

### **April 1, 2012 - Appleton**

Fox Valley Coin Club's 57th Annual Spring Coin Show at Darboy Club, N9695 County Rd., N. Appleton, WI. Hours: 9-4 p.m. 40 tables. Show contact: James Bayer, PO Box 1981, Appleton, WI 54912-1981. Phone: 920-739-1089.

### **April 15, 2012 - Wausau**

Wisconsin Valley Coin Show at Howard Johnson Inn & Conference Center, 2101 North Mountain Road (Hwy. 51 and NN, exit I-90) Wausau. Hours: 9:00-4:00 p.m. Contact Thad Streeter, 5002 Tanya St. Schofield, WI 54476. Phone 715-574-2777.

### **April 18-21, 2012 - CSNS**

CSNS 73rd anniversary convention at Renaissance Hotel & Convention Center, 1551 North Thoreau Drive, Schaumburg, IL. 250 dealer tables. [www.cenralstates.info](http://www.cenralstates.info).

### **May 13-15, 2012 - ANA**

National Money Show at Denver, CO.

### **June 23-29, 2012 - ANA**

Summer Seminar Session #1 Colorado Springs, CO

### **June 30-July 6, 2012 - ANA**

Summer Seminar Session #2 at Colorado Springs, CO

## **2013**

### **2013 - Numismatists of Wisconsin**

at Sheboygan Falls (date to be determined).

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*Man does not live by words alone,  
despite the fact that sometimes he  
has to eat them!*